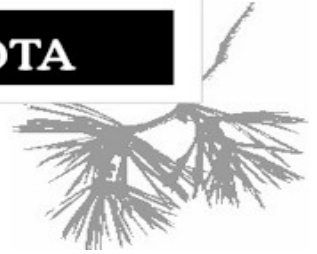


NATIONAL FORESTS IN MINNESOTA



NEWS RELEASE

Name: Mary Nordeen
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Date: October 19, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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218-835-3136

BLACKDUCK PRESCRIBED BURNS ENHANCE BLUEBERRY PROSPECTS

On July 11, 2003, Blackduck District Ranger Tracy Beck signed a decision to use fire to enhance blueberry resources on approximately 321 acres on the Chippewa National Forest. During the summer of 2004, Forest fire management personnel conducted seven separate prescribed burns totally approximately 315 acres along the south side of Cass County Road 91 (Forest Service Road 2167) to meet this objectives of the Sand Plain Project.

These low-intensity prescribed fires will enhance blueberry heartiness in this area and production should increase substantially within 3 – 5 years following the burns. These actions will increase blueberry harvest opportunities in the area and help control competing vegetation. For further information on prescribed burns to regenerate blueberries, please contact Tate Fischer (District Fire Management Officer), Chippewa National Forest, Blackduck Ranger District at (218) 835-4291 or FAX: (218) 835-3132.

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